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English Composition I (ENG 100)

Professor Mangini

Formal Assignment #2: Narrative Project, Draft # 1

Due Date: 11:59 pm on Sunday, March 1.

Memphis Drags

When I got home from work that day, to talk to my Girlfriend and see what she thought about the idea of going to Memphis and racing. I had time to think of how I was going to pitch the idea to her, because she gets home later than from work than I do. When she got home, I waited a little while to tell her about my idea. She made dinner and we talked a little about our respective days and when we adjourned to the living room to relax and watch TV, I felt the time was right and explained my idea.

“What do you think about us going to Memphis for the “Pump Gas Drags?”

My girlfriend replied, “Um, sure. That’s a really long trip. How are we going to do this? Trailer the car I guess?”

I said, “Yep, how else are we going to get it there, load it on a plane?”

She replied, “Ok smart ass. I guess your parents would go too? I mean I guess they would definitely want to go. How are they going to feel about it?”

I replied, “Well, I’ll have to talk to them about it. I don’t think I’ll be chosen by Hot Rod Magazine to go, so it’s probably not going to pan out.”

A little while later, I went to my Parents house, and I spoke to Mom and Pop about it. They were on board with the idea. My Mom was excited to go, it was somewhere she hadn’t been. My Dad was thinking like me, and said, “You won’t get invited to go.”

In early Spring of 2008, I was at work and we were on lunch and a friend of mine handed me the Hot Rod Magazine from January ‘08 and saw the advertisement for the Pump Gas Drags, and I started thinking about whether I should send in an application to see if I get invited,

only 75 racers are invited. I would have to talk to my Girlfriend and my parents, (racing is a family thing for me), about going, if I'm invited, and see if I could get the time off from work.

I filled out the application and had my girlfriend email it to Hot Rod Magazine along with pictures of my Chevelle. I really didn't hold out much hope that I'd ever hear back from them, so I just went on about my life at that point.

One morning, while I was at work, my girlfriend texted me while I was at work. The text read, "call me as soon as you can." I called her and what followed was a huge shock.

My girlfriend, in an excited but quiet voice, said, "DUDE, WE'RE GOING TO MEMPHIS!"

I wasn't sure if what I thought I heard was in fact what was said.

In my state of shock, I asked, "Seriously? No way!"

My Girlfriend replied, "I'm dead serious Bill. I'll read you the email."

As my girlfriend read me the email, I was still in disbelief. She's reading off deadlines for submitting this and that, and of course there's a deadline to tell them you accept the invitation. I hung up with my girlfriend and said to my friend, "I am one of the 75 people out of hundreds who got picked to race in the Pump Gas Drags at Memphis Motor Sports Park." As the words are coming out of my mouth, I still can't believe what has just happened.

"Well no time like the present" I said to myself as I made my way into the plant managers office and asked, "I need to know if I can get an advance on my vacation time and if not then I need to take a leave of absence for four days in May. I've been invited to go to Memphis, Tennessee to participate in Hot Rod Magazine's Pump Gas Drags."

Being the asshole that he was he responded with, "Company policy is to not advance vacation time, and as far as a leave of absence is concerned it has to be approved."

I responded with, "This is a once in a life time opportunity I probably won't ever get this chance again, all the bullshit reasons all the rest of the people in here come up with to get time

off with and you're going to give me a hard time asking about this, fuck you I'll go over your head."

And with that I went to talk to the head of Human Resources and see if she would give me the time off. When I arrived at her office door, she looked like she was buried in a sea of paper. I made my presence known by knocking on the door jamb to her office, and proceeded to tell her what the situation was and what asshole had told me. She responded with, "I will talk to him and let you know in a day or two, what the decision is.", and for some reason I was okay with that.

A few days later the maintenance man and I were sitting in the maintenance shop talking at break time as our Plant Manager approached us I said to the maintenance man, "Here comes asshole, if he comes over here and tells me they're not going to give me the time off I asked for I'm going to cuss his ass out!"

Plant manager begins with "I'm going to settle this issue right now because I'm tired of hearing about it." And proceeds to tell us that company is going to advance me four days' vacation and this is a one-time deal and that I had to up to H.R. and sign a document outlining what the company was going to do for me and why they were doing it. Along with our Union President I headed up to H.R. to sign, Which, we did that same day.

We left for Memphis at 2 am on a Thursday morning and finally arrived in Memphis, after a fourteen-hour trip with countless stops for gas and bathroom breaks. Tired, hungry and a little wired from the adventure of the trip out, we headed to the track for some test passes.